•The Progressive Review

Nbr 331
January 1995

Free fall

A madness has set in. It is not just that Reaganism has been revived; it's that it has been revived without opposition. The Democratic Party barely functions and the media functions primarily as the unsafe sex of politics -- verbal intercourse capriciously transmitting whatever viruses may be about. As the two parties compete in banality and brutality, corporate lobbyists and the corporate press cheer them on. So narrow is the vision that some have seriously suggested that all we need is a third party squeezed somehow between the two existing ones. They don't notice that there is no room there; the center has moved someplace else.

Washington is in the midst of a battle between the cruel and the craven -- refereed by the corrupt. The Republicans want inner city kids in orphanages; the Clintonites want them in boot camp. Clinton wants mothers off welfare in two years; some Republicans want them off in 60 days. The GOP congressional leadership fires 1500 Hill workers a few weeks before Christmas with no severance pay. Clinton and Gore respond by holding a news conference to boast that the executive branch can cut even more people, albeit not until after Christmas.

The President even proposes putting the air controllers under a corporation modeled -- of all things -- on the US Postal Service. We must, we are told, give up Amtrak, public broadcasting, federal support for the arts, food stamps, student loans, school lunches, disability payments for the elderly, national parks, public housing, and aid to legal immigrants.

And why precisely is it that we must so assiduously destroy what has taken America six decades to create? To cut the federal deficit.

And if we cut the federal deficit what will happen? Fiscally, not much. The national debt, for example, will continue to rise. In fact over the past two years, unnoticed in all the braggadocio about cutting the deficit, it has done just that -- and at a faster rate than even under Reagan and Bush.

As for other matters, the economy will, if anything, tend to contract for the government will no longer be carrying its share of the GNP. And we will continue to have depressed wages and high unemployment. We will thus be fighting against ourselves, since one of the best ways to cut the deficit is to increase people's ability to pay taxes.

We will also continue to ignore one of the major causes of our fiscal imbalance, namely the excessive reliance on borrowed rather than minted money -- that has resulted in huge and ever compounding interest payments. So great is this effect that nearly three-quarters of all public and private debt in this country does not represent real borrowed money at all, but rather the interest due on that money.

Meanwhile, thanks to the faulty cure we have chosen, we may have to give up all or part of Amtrak, public broadcasting, federal support for the arts, food stamps, student loans, school lunches, disability payments for the elderly, national parks, public housing, and aid to legal immigrants.

If you are young, forgetful or just tired, you may not recall that it wasn't always like this, that grown politicians did not always go around ripping apart the normal functions of government just so they could claim to have balanced the budget. That people who called themselves leaders did not pride themselves on setting citizen against citizen, or trying to see how many criminals they could fry, or immigrants they could deny medical care and education, or welfare mothers they could further impoverish.

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The Progressive Review
Bucking the system since 1966

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That *reform* was not always used by press and politicians as a euphemism for *repeal.* That the leaders in Congress and the White House did not always get their intellectual stimulation from paradigm hustlers or hucksters living off the sucker-bait of cable TV infomercials. Or reinvent government based on a pop self-help manual for aspiring corporatist politicians.

Which is not to say there are not some echoes bouncing off the walls of the capital. Echoes, for example, of the timorousness of liberal democrats in pre-Nazi Germany. Of Harding and Coolidge vintage Republicanism. Of the cowardice of American liberals during the dark days of McCarthy. And of turn-of-the-century populism going to racist seed.

Nonetheless. from the start of the New Deal to the end of Jimmy Carter's tenure, the main course of American domestic politics was directed towards the improvement of life for the average citizen. The pace might vary substantially, the methods change, but not until the arrival of Ronald Reagan did power turn massively inward -- determined to serve itself firstly and mostly.

This is brought to mind by a new book by historian Joan Hoff: *Nixon Reconsidered.* [Basic Books]. Hoff writes:

> [Nixon's domestic policies] represent the most positive characteristics of the Nixon phenomenon. In fact, the Age of Nixon that would end in the denouement of disgrace, actually reached its climax in the area of domestic reform.

And what were these reforms? Here are a few proposed and/or passed:

- Minimum welfare payments set and administered by the federal government.
- Revenue sharing providing non-directed redistribution of federal income
- A family assistance program that never made it through Congress. It had a work requirement but it also unconditionally guaranteed children an annual income regardless of whether the parents worked or not. It would have tripled the number of children then being aided by AFDC.
- The Supplementary Security Income program for the aged, blind and disabled.
- Uniform application of food stamps program
- Better health insurance programs for low-income families.
- Cost of living adjustments for Social Security recipients.
- A National Student Loan Association to help students from low-income families attend college.
- Aid to community colleges
- Creation of the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Increased funding for elementary and secondary schools.

Writes Hoff::

> From the first to the last of the Nixon budgets. . . spending on human resource programs exceeded

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spending for defense for the first time since World War II. . . Nixon initiated new programs and spent proportionally more on many old ones. Funding for social welfare programs under Nixon grew from $55 billion in 1970 to almost $132 billion in 1975, making him (not President Johnson) the 'last of the big spenders' on domestic programs.

Even one who feels far less charitable towards Nixon than Hoff can spot the anomaly: over the coming months we will find ourselves fighting to defend not only the programs of "tax and spend liberals" but those of none other than the egregious one himself. It is remarkable to contemplate that we now have in the White House a Democratic administration that is in important ways less liberal than the late warlock of Whittier.

The current bipartisan attempt to repeal 60 years of American social and economic progress is not random. It compliments politically the successful efforts of major corporations to have Americans accept a lower standard of living. This project has been stunningly successful thanks in no small part to the acquiescence of both parties, witness the retreat in contract benefits and in real wages, the deterioration of working conditions, the universal downsizing of the Fortunate 500 companies and the heavy emigration of jobs, even before the final coup of NAFTA and GATT.

What corporate America has wanted is nothing less than the Third Worlding of the US, a collapse of both present reality and future expectations. The closer the life and wages of our citizens come to those of less developed nations, the happier the stateless multinationals will be. Then, as they say in the boardrooms and in the White House, the global playing field will have been leveled.

Having capitulated on economic matters, Americans are now being taught to accept likewise a diminution of social programs, of civil liberties, and even of the most basic governmental services.

The message comes in big and little ways. The vice president, for example, is deeply engaged in reinventing Americans' relationship with the government. They are, according to his paradigm, no longer its ultimate owners, no longer citizens collectively responsible for our country's well-being, but only its *consumers*. And the balanced budget amendment attempts to con Americans into signing a contract against their own self-interest, providing justification for the further dismantling of our social democracy. Citizens are not being told that by supporting such an amendment they are voting to permit the dismantling of social security, Medicare, public transportation, the national parks and every other public benefit they take for granted.

Once free of serving as the agent of our collective will, government can concentrate on the real business of a corporate state, such as repealing civil, health and environmental protections, reinforcing the military, subsidizing selected industry, and strengthening police

A few years back, a reader suggested That we not use The word devolution. He said no one knew what it meant. . .

We had been using it quite a bit. Like when Thomas S. Martin wrote in 1988 that devolution was an "inchoate but rapidly growing ideology" that could "well demolish and replace the world's precarious left-right orientation by the end of the century." That was the same article in which Martin predicted that "Yugoslavia will eventually break up" and that "a challenge to the centralized soviet state will arise" as a result of devolutionary trends.

Like when we wrote about the critical need to return domestic power in the US to lower levels of government.

Well, we've got good news for our wary reader. A national newsweekly recently declared *devolution* one of the buzzwords of 1995.

At the *Review* we like to count our scoops in years. If you would like to get the news while it still matters, just fill out the form on the last page. We, in return, promise not to use too many new words.

The Review: The news before it happens

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control over what will inevitably be an increasingly alienated and fractured electorate.

It will be a painful, brutish time as we are taught to deny ourselves progress and to blame others for our loss.

We can expect little help from either the major media, most of which is controlled by a few dozen huge corporations, or from the politicians these same corporations fund. If the decline in our standard of living, our standard of democracy and our standard of decency is to be halted, the people themselves will have to draw the line. Nothing, at the moment, is more important. -- *Sam Smith*

The Weather Report

News from the colonies

DC's fiscal crisis is only partially the fault of local elected officials. Congress played a big role in creating the current $500 million-plus deficit in the capital colony by (1) refusing to pay a fair share for the services provided by the city to the federal government and for land removed from the tax rolls and (2) refusing to let the city impose a commuter tax on hundreds of thousands of suburban day-trippers. Enough money was involved in these two decisions to cover the current deficit. And that isn't all. If federal urban funding was still at 1980 levels, the city would be receiving $170 million more a year from that source.

Meanwhile, Congress, which has approved every DC budget for the past 20 years (while telling the city it can't have statehood because it is a creature of the federal government), now wants to set DC adrift to solve its fiscal problems itself.

But Congress can't have it both ways. Either DC is a sovereign entity, in which case it should be granted statehood or it is a colony, in which case Congress is as responsible for dealing with the city's fiscal problems as it would be if the Pentagon had run over budget.

As things now stand, DC government workers in particular are getting the worst of both worlds. On such issues as pensions (which Congress never properly funded) or job preference in other federal slots, DC workers are in a segregated category denied the rights of the rest of the federal workforce. And what is the major difference between DC workers and other federal workers? Well, one thing is that a much higher percentage of DC workers are black. Could it be that we have a significant equal protection problem here?

Just politics

A reader and student of history points out that one reason Americans have such a hard time with their family values is that they never had them. All the way back to the earliest immigrations, American newcomers were heavily weighted towards single males. This pattern continued throughout our history -- inlcuidng during internal migration. Except for the Mormons, the westward trek was made primarily by the young and the single. We are a nation of mobile individualists who have never really cared that much for family values in the first place.

What's the difference between Gingrich and Clinton? Not as much as one might imagine. Gingrich, in fact, represents in some ways what Clinton might be if he were a Republican. The pair have the minds of Rhodes Scholars but the souls of aluminum siding salesmen. It was probably unintentional, but the *Washington Post* recently paired stories about Gingrich and Clinton that illustrated the common faith of these two post-modernist politicians. One *Post* story told of Gingrich bringing in a motivational speaker to conduct a six-hour lecture to GOP lawmakers. The political EST session was conducted by psychiatrist Morris Shectman who told the Republicans how to "frame" their policies so they wouldn't look "barbaric." Meanwhile, in the next column, Bill Clinton was reported to have "emerged with what aides call a philosophical blueprint for his rehabilitation." With Marion Barry being redeemed, Clinton being rehabilitated and the Republicans being reframed, it's hard to find anyone in this town who's the same thing they were yesterday.

Sen. Paul Tsongas put it nicely to the *Boston Globe:* "Think of Newt Gingrich. Now think of Bob Dole. Doesn't Dole all of a sudden appear to be very warm and fuzzy?

". . .Bob Dole doesn't seem old. He seems old fashioned, and being old-fashioned is getting to be very fashionable. He is part of a generation that suffered and endured, surrounded by Republicans and Democrats of the generation that did neither."

Talk show host Don Imus says that Newt Gingrich would "eat roadkill." Gingrich likes to give that impression, just like he likes to play the role of a populist representing the amuricunpeeple. The reality is a bit different. Gingrich represents the richest congressional district in Georgia, the headquarters of such corporations as Sprint, Home Depot, the Weather Channel, HBO, Unysys and Great Southeastern Restaurants. It is 91% white and

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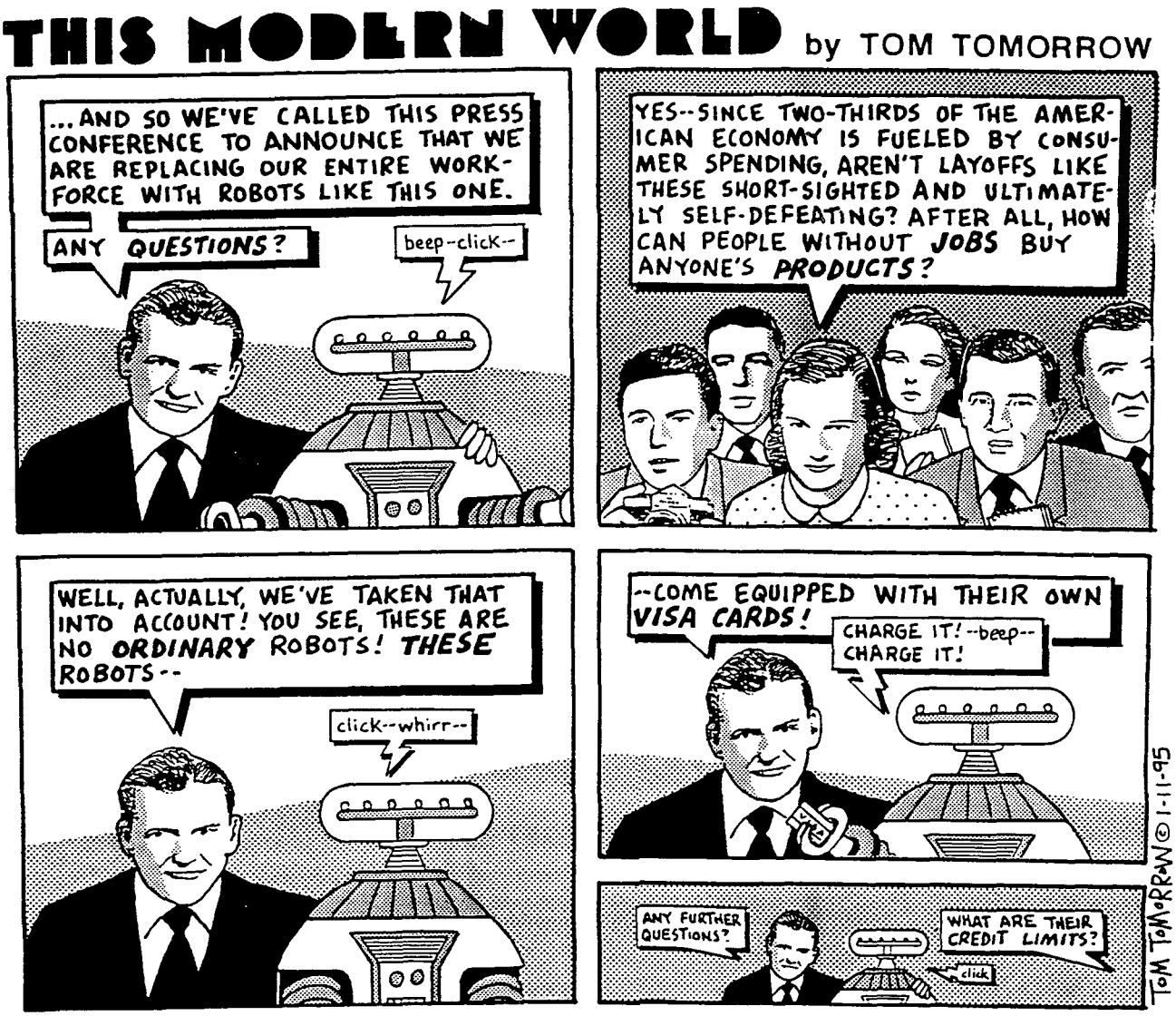
THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW
...AND SO WE'VE CALLED THIS PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE ARE REPLACING OUR ENTIRE WORK-FORCE WITH ROBOTS LIKE THIS ONE.
ANY QUESTIONS?
beep-click--
YES--SINCE TWO-THIRDS OF THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS FUELED BY CONSUMER SPENDING, AREN'T LAYOFFS LIKE THESE SHORT-SIGHTED AND ULTIMATELY SELF-DEFEATING? AFTER ALL, HOW CAN PEOPLE WITHOUT JOBS BUY ANYONE'S PRODUCTS?
WELL, ACTUALLY, WE'VE TAKEN THAT INTO ACCOUNT! YOU SEE, THESE ARE NO ORDINARY ROBOTS! THESE ROBOTS--
click--whirr--
--COME EQUIPPED WITH THEIR OWN VISA CARDS!
CHARGE IT!--beep--CHARGE IT!
ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?
WHAT ARE THEIR CREDIT LIMITS?
click
TOM TOMORROW ©1-11-95

the median income is $55,000 per year -- or about the same as for those residential neighborhoods of the Beltway elite he likes to criticize so much. The median income for the whole state is only $34,000.

Forty percent of Gingrich's constituents are college grads, 63% own their own home. Oh yes, we also learn from Jesse Jackson that the largest contribution made by this champion of volunteerism was to the Atlanta zoo.

Peter Levine of the Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy at the University of Maryland notes that the real problem for the Democrats this fall was that wealthier Americans voted in droves. The Democrats were the overwhelming favorite of voters earning less than $30,000 a year and they tied with the GOP among voters earning $30-49,000. But the "median voter was much wealthier than the median citizen." About 7 percent more of wealthy voters cast ballots this year while about 7 percent fewer of less wealthy voters came to the polls.

Four statewide Green Party candidates received more than 100,000 votes last November, led by Margaret Garcia, who got 289,000 votes running for California Secretary of State. Green candidates across the country got more than a million votes. The Green Party candidate for state treasurer of New Mexico won 33% of the tally -- the highest statewide percentage for a Green ever. In two states, the Green Party helped determine the outcome in the governor's race, siphoning off votes to elect a Republican in New Mexico and an independent in Maine. The Maine Green Party got enough votes to become an official party.

The Center for Voting & Democracy notes that Congress has changed its mind about single-member districts on a number of occasions. It first required SMDs in 1842, dropped the rule ten years later, reinstated it ten years after that and dropped it again in 1929. The current requirement comes from a 1967 law. CVD says Congress should amend the law to allow states to use proportional representation in multi-member districts. This, among other things, would permit an alternative to the electoral

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apartheid caused by gerrymandering districts to favor minorities.

One of the advantages of PR is that women do better. The recent elections in Sweden demonstrated this. Women won 41% of the seats in the September elections after threatening to form a new party if the major ones did not nominate more women. In Germany, women won only 13% of the legislative district seats, but 39% of those elected by PR. *[Note our on-line edition overstated the percent of women winning district seats; the 26% figure was for the entire legislature]*

We recently reported an effort in Arizona to ban lawyers serving in Congress on the constitutional grounds that they are officers of the court and thus members of the judicial branch. A reader in Massachusetts sends us documentation that this is far from a new idea. The state's charter in 1633 (in which the legislature is called the General Court) stated "No person who is an usuall & common atturney in any inferior Court [i.e. a judicial court] shall be admitted to sitt as a Deputy in this Court [i.e. the legislature].

The mediacracy

The death of labor journalist Victor Riesel at 81 reminds us of how long it has been since anyone could make a living being a labor journalist. The major media covers business almost entirely from the point of view of management and shareholders. If all you knew about American business came from the business pages, you would assume that a company was something that one bought and sold -- and little else.

Land of the free

The *LA Times* finds that judges and prosecutors are resisting the new California "three strikes" law. One judge said, "I refuse to dispense injustice. I wasn't put here to annihilate people because some political hungry morons wanted to." In fact, in the first 98 cases under the law only one defendant was given the mandatory 25 years to life. Third strike defendants were actually more likely to receive a sentence of one year than to be sentenced to life. Besides, most defendants were charged with shoplifting or drug offenses, with only one in five charged with a violent crime.

The corporate state

A study by the Center for Policy Alternatives found at least 90 California statutes that were susceptible to GATT-related challenge, including progressive laws on agricultural standards, job creation, liquor labeling, and taxation of international corporations. *[CPA: 202-387-6030]*

Just politics

In November 1995, for the first time, there will be non-binding presidential primaries in at least ten cities, including Boston, Baltimore and Minneapolis. The project, spurred by CityVote, is an attempt to give urban centers a larger voice in the primaries. CityVote also plans four nationally televised debates focused on the problems of American cities. *[714-552-9596.]*

> The inscription at the base of the Statue of Liberty was written before welfare -- GOP Rep. Clay Shaw

Despite all the talk about deficit reduction, a poll by the Times Mirror Center in December found that a majority of Americans favored *increasing* federal funding for combating crime, public schools, research on AIDS, programs for the homeless, health care, and retraining programs for displaced workers. A majority voted to increase or to keep at the same level the following: social security, financial aid for college students, environmental protection, scientific research, military defense, farm subsidies, programs that assist blacks and other minorities and government assistance of the unemployed.

Campaign contributions limits of $100 were passed in three states last November: Missouri, Montana and Oregon -- in each case by a majority of more than 70%. In Colorado, the idea got only 45% of the vote.

The idea mill

The Community Action Network in Portland OR is leaving bikes around town -- unlocked. The bikes -- spray-painted yellow -- are free for anyone to use. CAN hopes eventually to have a fleet of 1000 free bikes.

The Green Hotels Association is distributing signs to hotels that guests can use to indicate they don't need new towels and sheets on a daily basis. *[713-789-8889]*

Philadelphia saved $3 million last year by diverting food scraps from landfills to hog farms. Two thousand citizens recycled their food scraps producing some 24, 000 tons of hog food. *[Shisler Farms, 609- 468-6915]*

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Drug busts

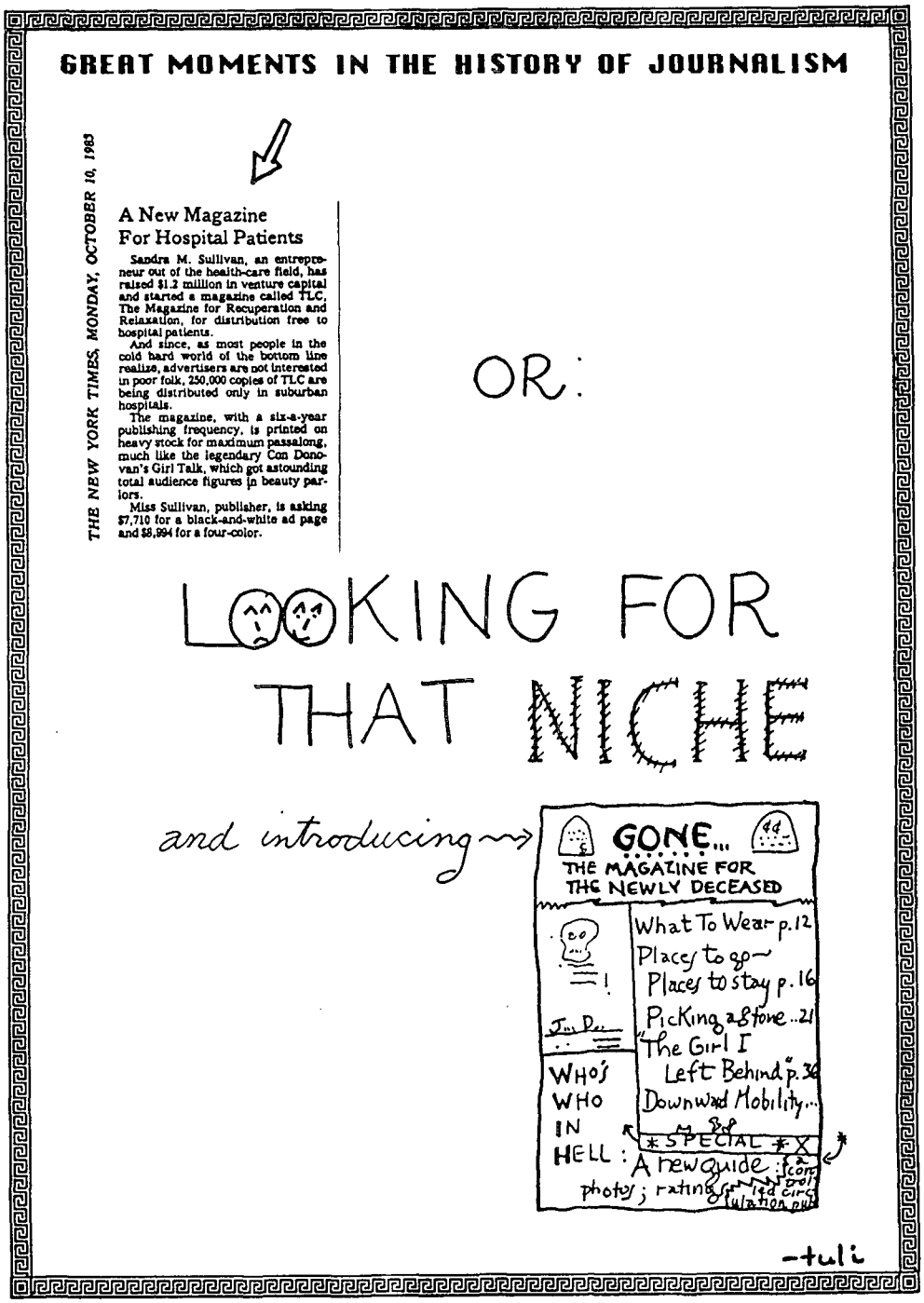
Despite charges that the Clinton administration is not tough enough on drugs, a recently released FBI report reveals that more Americans were arrested for marijuana offenses during Clinton's first year in office than in any year since 1989. That makes it about nine million pot arrests since 1965, or one every two minutes.

More than half the prison wardens in a new survey said they do not support mandatory sentences for drug offenders.

Tenants wanting to move into an apartment complex in Euclid OH have to agree to take a drug test.

The Institute of Medicine, after convening a panel of drug experts, has concluded that methadone is being over-regulated by federal, state and local governments. Only 20% of the addicts who could be helped by methadone have access to it. The institute says that doctors should be allowed to prescribe whatever dose of methadone is necessary for individual patients and should be allowed to decide if a patient would be helped by using the drug.

The Clinton administration continues to block an FDA-approved study of the effect of marijuana on the alleviation of AIDS symptoms. Putting politics before pain, the White House is refusing to provide the marijuana for the research, which has been backed by the Physicians Association for AIDS Research and the Federation of American Scientists.


GREAT MOMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF JOURNALISM
THE NEW YORK TIMES, MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1983
A New Magazine For Hospital Patients
Sandra M. Sullivan, an entrepreneur out of the health-care field, has raised $1.2 million in venture capital and started a magazine called TLC, The Magazine for Recuperation and Relaxation, for distribution free to hospital patients.
And since, as most people in the cold hard world of the bottom line realize, advertisers are not interested in poor folk, 250,000 copies of TLC are being distributed only in suburban hospitals.
The magazine, with a six-a-year publishing frequency, is printed on heavy stock for maximum passalong, much like the legendary Con Donovan's Girl Talk, which got astounding total audience figures in beauty parlors.
Miss Sullivan, publisher, is asking $7,710 for a black-and-white ad page and $8,994 for a four-color.
OR:
LOOKING FOR THAT NICHE
and introducing
GONE...
THE MAGAZINE FOR THE NEWLY DECEASED
What To Wear p.12
Places to go
Places to stay p.16
Picking a Stone..21
"The Girl I Left Behind" p.30
Downward Mobility...
WHO'S WHO IN HELL: A new guide
SPECIAL
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According to Interpol officials, international drug trafficking has become the world's second most lucrative business after the arms trade. The drug business is worth $400 billion annually. Says Interpol Secretary General R. E. Kindle, "The estimated turnover of $400 billion has the power to corrupt almost everyone." Among the corruptees are world financial institutions. Said one Interpol official, "The BCCI was only the tip of the iceberg" in terms of money laundering. It is estimated that about half the of the drug money is laundered through recognized banks.

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Bolivia's president says he personally believes drugs should be legalized because prohibition has never worked. He says he can't press the issue, though, because the decision on whether to legalize drugs must be made in the consuming countries.

Did they read our galleys?

The Clinton Administration took one of our suggestions for devolution of power even before we could get it off the press. While the December issue was at the printers, the EPA halted its flawed and politically disastrous new auto emissions testing program.

Haiti

James Ridgeway and Jean Jean-Pierre report in the *Village Voice* that secret plans of the American government for Haiti include paying off the Haitian military and giving them first crack at new jobs, selling off state assets to private investors (including the main port, telephone company, and airport) and spending millions of dollars to influence Haitian elections.

Feedback

• *Howard Philips, chairman of the Conservative Caucus, writes concerning our four proposals (December issue) to return political power to a lower level:* I congratulate you on your good advice to Bill Clinton under the title "Give back the power." On each of your four points, I agree with you completely. I'm encouraged that in these respects you share our desire for the devolution and decentralization of power in line with the precepts of the Constitution.

• *Marc Rotenberg in DC writes*: I liked the December issue, but I thought it was a little unfair to Tocqueville to mention his criticism of American individualism without also acknowledging his belief that democratic institutions and civic associations would counter the tendency toward selfishness and isolation.

• *Tom Slaughter writes*. You provide the statistic that 38% of the people on welfare are black. It has long been publicized that most people on welfare are white. How, then, can being against welfare as it is practiced nowadays be considered racist? Even more, if one has concluded that the current welfare system is detrimental to the people on it as well as to the people paying it, how is one to question it without being called racist? Or are you so afraid of a legitimate analysis of pet programs that you have to discredit dissent anyway you can? Or is it just to "radicalize" the people and discredit those you don't like? It is easy to cry racist, but you must present some evidence to convince me that questioning traditional liberal statist solutions to problems represents racism rather than rationality. You condemn Weld for proposing "forced labor for those on welfare more than 60 days." Not really: they only have to work if they want to continue to receive benefits. In addition: those that want to work and are fortunate enough to have a job are forced (literally) to support those that won't or don't. Is it any more just to force people to support non-producers on welfare than to force people to support non-producing royalty? For those whose earnings are ripped off at the point of a gun, who it goes to doesn't make a difference.

On the other hand, I loved your article on LETS. Essentially it is advocating free market money as well as a free market in goods and services. Of course it will work.

Such a system could help resolve the welfare dispute. Part of the problem is that labor (or anything else) needs to reach it's equilibrium price level. A higher price will result in less demand for the labor.

Perhaps the solution is to eliminate welfare for the well off, while providing a minimum level of support for people with the requirement that they work providing some service -- whatever they can get at whatever price they can get. This would teach them how to create value, and help them get started. It would also eliminate the artificial limitation on the amount of work.

Part (if not all) the funding could be provided through LETS. To continue to receive support at the minimum level, they would have to earn so many credits in the LETS system.

If one wishes to improve the efficiency of government it is best to start with a significant item in the budget like defense, than with a minor one like welfare.

If one wishes to improve the welfare program, it is best to concentrate on the clearly curable problems -- such as the lack of a sensible transition payment formula that neither restricts incentive nor punishes the recipient -- or the politician-imposed caps on earnings and assets.

If one wishes to improve the lives of those on welfare, it is best to think in terms of job reform rather than welfare reform. One can not have the latter while simultaneously declaring (as we have) that six percent unemployment is economically desirable.

• *Finally, in our November issue under Roadsigns we reversed the odds in our listing of the relationship between how much one spent in a campaign and whether one won. The list should have read "the odds against winning" rather than the "odds of winning."*

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Field Notes

Groups

Cultural Environment Movement: Dealing with media issues ranging from market domination and commercialism to media literacy and diversity. *[CEM, POB 31847, Philadelphia, PA 19104*

Reading

The Mismeasure of Man by Stephen Jay Gould. Originally published in 1981, this book has just been re-released to help counter the bell curve nonsense. Norton.

Green Party bibliography: For a list of 95 books on Green Party politics send a dollar along with a SASE (business) to J. Michael Ochs, 1633 Scott Street, Williamsport, PA 17701-4458

The Wealth Primary by John Bonifaz and Jamin Raskin proposes a new legal approach to ending unfair campaign spending using the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. This important book is available for $10 from the Center for Responsive Politics, 1320 19th St. NW #700, WDC 20036.

Roadsigns

Drugs

Increase in arrest rate of whites for drug charges since the early 1980s: 49%.

Increase in arrest rate of blacks for drug charges since the early 1980s: 156%. [*Center for Substance Abuse Research, Univ. of Md.]*

Deaths in 1990 from cocaine and heroin as a percent of deaths from alcohol: 12%

Deaths in 1990 from cocaine and heroin as a percent of deaths from tobacco: 3% *[National Institute on Drug Abuse]*

Economics

Percent decline in income since 1979 of men without a college degree: 12%.

Percent of men and women who have lost jobs since 1991 and who haven't found new ones: 20%.

Percent who have found jobs but are making less than they were before: 47%. *[Morton Kondrake]*

Percent of Americans who said it is the responsibility of government to take care of people who can't take care of themselves.: 65%

Percent who thought spending on programs for poor children should be increased: 47% *[NYT/CBS]*

Increase in workplace repetitive motion injuries in the past decade: nearly 800 percent. [*Bureau of Labor Statistics]*

Percent of American stores that are now franchise operations: 10%

Percent of all retail sales done by franchise operations: 40% *[International Franchise Assn. of America]*

Energy

Percent of developing world's population without electricity: 70% *[Solar Electric Light Fund]*

Environment

Percent of Americans who would be upset if the government seriously weakens or eliminates environmental regulations: 73% *[Newsweek]*

Food

Number of farms in US in 1935: 6.8 million. Today: 1.9 million *[Census]*

Amount House GOP welfare reform proposals would cut food and nutrition programs over the next five years: more than $30 billion.

Number of Americans who could be dropped from food and nutrition programs if these proposals go through: more than 6 million *[Food Research & Action Council]*

Percent of food stamp recipients who are children: 51%. *[USDA]*

Gingrich

Number of DC children Gingrich said were left in the trash each year: 800

Number of DC children actually left in the trash this year: 4 *[Time]*

Government

Number of pages it took the Treasury Dept. to explain to employees how to insert a Spanish tilde above the letter *n* on their computers: 8 *[Washington Times]*

Homelessness

Number of Americans who have been homeless at some point in their lives: 13.5 million. *[American Journal of Public Health]*

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Increase in emergency food requests in American cities over last year: 12%

Increase in emergency shelter requests in American cities over the last year: 13% *[AP]*

Justice

Percent of highway arrests made at the south end of the New Jersey Turnpike that involved blacks: 73%

Percent of turnpike users who are black: 13.5% *[Gloucester County NJ Public Defenders office]*

Percent of 272 lawyers in a 1991 survey who admitted to least occasional double-billing: 50%.

Percent who said it was ethical: 38%.

Percent who said it was sometimes ethical: 88%. *[Legal Times]*

Media

Average number of violent acts per hour on Saturday morning children's television: 22.8

Percent of each episode of *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* containing violence: 25 *[USN&WR]*

Politics

Percent of voters who voted Republican last November in what the media has cast as a GOP landslide: 50.5% *[Stanley Greenberg in The Polling Report]*

Number of states in which 95% of the black voting age population lives: 25

Number of Democratic Senate seats lost in the other 25 states: 3. House seats lost: 20 *[Joint Ctr. For Political and Economic Studies]*

Amount the Gingrich got paid as a congressman for his 1984 book *Window of Opportunity:* $10,000 *[Reuters]*

Welfare

Percent of Americans who would be upset if many poor mothers have to give up their welfare benefits and send their children to orphanages or foster homes: 78% *[Newsweek]*

Trade

Number of manufacturing jobs lost in the US since the Tokyo Round of GATT fifteen years ago: 3.2 million. *[Sen. Fritz Hollings]*

Etc.

Number of Intel engineers that it takes to change a light-bulb: 1.934632. But who's counting?

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